

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Hughes on 4/24/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

At the end of claim 17, ---wherein said catalyst comprises zeolite-bound zeolite having at least one component selected from the group consisting of bound Ga-modified zeolite having a Si/Ga molar ratio ranging from 5 to 500 and a binder of Ga-modified zeolite having a Si/Ga molar ratio ranging from 5 to ∞ --- has been inserted.

The dependency of claim 8 has been changed to ---17---.

Claim 9 has been written as:

---The method of claim 17 wherein said conversion conditions further comprise a pressure of from excess of 6.9 to 1380 kPa, and a weight hourly space velocity in the range of from about 0.01 to about 500 hr⁻¹---

Claim 10 has been written as:

---The method of claim 17 wherein said conversion conditions further comprise a pressure of from 34 to 680 kPa, and a weight hourly space velocity in the range of from about 2 to about 100 hr⁻¹---

The dependency of claim 11 has been changed to ---17---.

Claims 1-7, 12-15, 18, 19, and 22 has been deleted.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious a process as called for in claim 1 for converting methanol and/or DME to C2 and C3 olefins in the presence of a gallium-modified ZSM-5 zeolite-bound-zeolite catalyst. The closest art of record – Pieters et al (4,638,106) incorporated with Argauer (3,702,886) - discloses a process as discussed in the previous Office action. However, the references does not disclose that the catalyst is a zeolite-bound zeolite which is used to operated at a temperature ranged from 350 to 450°C as in the claimed process. One having ordinary skill in the art who studies the exemplified processes in the specification would recognize that the use of the catalyst as in the claimed process yields unexpected results, especially as shown in table 6.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THUAN D. DANG whose telephone number is (571)272-1445. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/THUAN D DANG/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797

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